

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 16, 17, and 19-22 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten or amended to include the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, independent claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16; claims 17, 19, and 21 have been amended to include the limitations of the base claim 14; and new claims 31-39 have been added to include the subject matter of claims 15, 18, and 24 dependent from claims 17, 19, and 21. Claims 16, 23, and 25-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of pending claims 14, 15, 17-22, 24, and 31-29 are allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons for the indication by the Examiner of allowable subject matter in claims 16, 17, and 19-22.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Masayuki SATO et al.

/Jeffrey R. Filipek/

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January 29, 2009